



## New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

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The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2023

Re: H.R. 764, the "Trust the Science Act"

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva:

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA) endorses H.R. 764 and urges its passage.

By all accounts, the gray wolf is recovered. That success should be applauded. The gray wolf should be delisted. Gray wolf management should be returned to the relevant states. The recent re-listing in response to political pressure from environmental groups denigrates that recovery success and the Endangered Species Act itself, underscoring the criticism that recovery of species under the ESA has been futile, is purely political and should never genuinely be expected.

For too long, the ESA-related lawsuits that NGOs file and the federal judges who decide them have been in control of environmental policy in the United States. Neither is authorized or equipped for that responsibility. Neither is accountable. Instead, accountability should be placed closer to the natural resource at issue. In this case, accountability for species and their recovery should be placed with the state where the wolves are located and whose officials are known and who will be held accountable to voters for their decisions.

Gray wolves are now infiltrating New Mexico from Colorado. New Mexico voters did not vote to receive these wolves. These gray wolves from Colorado will kill livestock in New Mexico. NMCGA has asked if Colorado intends to reimburse our livestock growers for damages associated with gray wolf depredations in New Mexico. The answer is **NO**. Respectfully, management of these wolves in New Mexico would be better placed with the state, not with faceless bureaucrats in Washington who have consistently demonstrated that they do not understand or care about the cost their decisions will have on the citizens of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Loren Patterson, President

**LOREN PATTERSON**, President, Corona; **BRONSON CORN**, President-Elect, Roswell **JOE CULBERTSON**, Vice-President At Large Amistad, **ROY FARR**, SW Vice-President Datil; **DAVE KENNEKE**, NW Vice-President, Cimarron; **JEFF DECKER**, SE Vice-President, Lovington; **CLIFF COPELAND**, NE Vice-President, Nara Visa; **SHACEY SULLIVAN**, Secretary-Treasurer, Bosque Farms; **RANDELL MAJOR**, Past President, Magdalena **TOM SIDWELL**, Past President, Quay